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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

IPF:(1992-96) $10 481 000
(PNG/92/G31) - National conservation and Resource Management Programme

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	14 July 1993
Expected duration:	Five years
Proposed executing agency:	UNDP/OPS
Government implementing agency:	Department of Environment and Conservation
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$5 000 000 Source of funds: GEF
Previous UNDP contribution:	$ 509 800 (Preparatory Assistance)
Total UNDP budget:	$5 509 800

Project background

With its unique ecosystem and a high degree of endemism, Papua New Guinea is said to contribute five percent of the world's biodiversity. The most serious threats to biodiversity conservation in the nation are the slash-and-burn practice of subsistent agriculture and increasing commercial logging especially in lowland rain forests, followed by mining and infrastructure development. Conservation of biological resources in general has become a major Government preoccupation in the recent years. A recent culmination was seen in the development and adoption, with UNDP/World Bank support, of the National Forestry and Conservation Action Plan (NFCAP) in 1991. During the NFCAP process a national objective was set to bring under conservation 20 percent of the land and coastal areas. The NFCAP Project Status Report of 1992 cities more than a dozen conservation related projects at various stages of preparation. With a ban on export of unprocessed logs in many countries in Asia, pressure on Papua New Guinea's forest resources is increasing. The Government is trying to accelerate legislative actions to effectively deal with this situation.

For various reasons, inter alia, the shortage of resources and effective operational practices to address the complexity of conservation in the country the present conservation areas cover only two percent of the country, comprising four national parks, four provincial parks and 21 wildlife management areas (WMA). The review of conservation areas system indicates that future programmes of biodiversity conservation need to develop a new approach. In Papua New Guinea where 97 percent of land and nearshore areas are customarily owned and 80 percent of the population are in the rural subsistent economy, future conservation efforts will be built on full support, initiative and participation of local communities and groups, and innovative approaches which will ensure people's livelihood as well as biodiversity preservation. Against this background, and following extensive formulation work with active involvement of government agencies, landholders, community groups, and the private sector, as well as national and international NGOs, the concept of

[1] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

Integrated Conservation and Development (ICAD) has been endorsed as the major strategy for future conservation activities. ICAD areas are to be developed and piloted by DEC, with the aim to securing conservation of biodiversity by promoting social and economic development and providing alternative sources of income.

Description of project

The long-range objective of the programme is to establish two pilot ICAD areas, a conservation Resource Centre (CRC) Biodiversity Conservation Trust Fund and Environment Levy, and a National Conservation Council (NCC). The immediate objectives are to: (a) develop and implement the ICAD project strategy; (b) establish biodiversity objectives and monitoring criteria; (c) institute community capacity building for sustained management of the ICAD area; (d) strengthen and mobilize the local NGOs; (e) mobilize and coordinate the inputs from other government agencies and the private sector as well as donors; (f) enable the Conservation Resource Center (CRC) review, plan, implement, technically backstop and coordinate inputs; (g) establish the Biodiversity Conservation Trust Fund and Environment Levy to ensure long-term sustainability of conservation efforts in the country; (h) conduct a further study on the subjects mentioned above and build a broad-based consensus; (i) review independently through the National Conservation Council (NCC) conservation efforts, and advise on policy matters; (g) support the finalization and operationalization of NCC subject to Cabinet approval, within 18 months of the project initiation; and (h) enable the NCC to act as a steering committee and guide the future implementation of this project.

Inputs

UNDP will provide a CTA (60 work-months) and a resource economist (36 man months); consultants in agriculture, tree crops, non-timber products, social anthropology (national) and others (total 32.5 man-months); national ICAD project staff (184 man-months) and support staff (120 man-months); subcontracts; training expenses at DEC and the project sites; equipment; and miscellaneous costs.

The Government of the Netherlands has agreed to finance a major initiative in the field of biodiversity conservation in PNG's rainforest ecosystems through trust fund arrangement with FAO. It is anticipated that the Dutch Government may contribute up to (US) $4 million. Also on parallel co-financing, the World Wildlife Fund will be implementing another ICAD project with financing ($3 million) from Chevron.

Financial data

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Personnel	2 410 500
Subcontract	693 400
Training	689 200
Equipment	581 400
Miscellaneous	350 300
Support costs	275 200
Total	5 000 000

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